

Message Text

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15

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

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R 260654Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8220

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10919

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: LAUREL-LANGLEY EXPLORATORY TALKS: DRAFT

U.S.- PHILIPPINE AER

REF: A. MANILA 10903

B. STATE 186743

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL A, EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATED THE THOROUGH REVIEW OF DRAFT AER PROVIDED BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES. ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED IS THE PROVISION OF A PREAMBLE. WE BELIEVE COMBINED RESULT WASHINGTON AND MISSION EFFORTS IS DRAFT WHICH APPROPRIATELY REFLECTS ESSENTIALS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WE WISH TO RECORD, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON LIKELY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. TEXT:

(A) WHILE HANDING OVER THE DRAFT WITHOUT UNDERTAKING FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES EMBASSY HOPES IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT A NUMBER OF POSITIONS IN THE DRAFT GO WELL BEYOND IMMEDIATELY VISIBLE TOLERANCES OF THE PHILIPPINE SITUATION. WE PROCEED EVEN SO MINDFUL, AS IS THE DEPT, OF WELL-KNOWN FILIPINO BARGAINING HABITS,
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AND WE EXPECT THAT FALLBACKS WILL BE

NEEDED EARLY IN THE NEXT ROUND.

(B) SPECIFICALLY ON LAND OWNERSHIP AND ON NATIONAL TREATMENT WE EXPECT EARLY AND STRONG RESERVATIONS. WE HOPE THAT BY OUR HANDLING OF PRESENTATION TO KEY OFFICIALS WE CAN CHANNEL THOSE ENERGIES INTO DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC FILIPINO DRAFTING PROPOSALS. WE INTEND TO WORK TOWARD THIS IN EARLY TALKS WITH PHIL PANEL LEADERSHIP.

(C) WE ARE A BIT WARY OF THE STARTING POSITIONS RESPECTING LAND OWNERSHIP PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF PROSPECT THAT THIS POSITION MAY AROUSE EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS IN SOME SECTORS U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WE HAVE PASSED COPY OF TEXT ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO CHAMBER LEADERSHIP AND WE HAVE THEIR ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL NOT BE CIRCULATED OR DISCUSSED OUTSIDE A TIGHT CIRCLE. EVEN SO, LOCAL OFFICIALDOM IS NOTORIOUSLY LEAKY AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE FAIRLY WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PROPOSALS AND OF FILIPINO REACTION TO THEM. INITIAL BASKING IN SUCH A STRONG "VESTED RIGHT" POSITION, THEREFORE, MAY BE FOLLOWED BY SOME FAIRLY EARLY DISAPPOINTMENTS IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WE HAVE ALREADY PAVED THE WAY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A LESSER SOLUTION BY CHAMBER LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH THIS NOT EASY TO HANDLE WITH COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

3. ON THE SPECIFIC HANDLING OF THE TRANSITION (NOTABLY RESPECTING LAND OWNERSHIP) WE TAKE IT THAT WHILE REFTTEL (B) DOES NOT EXPLICITLY SAY SO, DEPT INTENDS TO ATTEMPT INITIAL RESOLUTION THESE PROBLEMS ENTIRELY WITHIN THE AER. THAT BEING THE CASE, WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FILIPINOS TO SET FORTH SPECIFIC POSITIONS ON TRANSITIONAL QUESTIONS. RATHER WE WOULD INTEND TO DEFER SUCH DISCUSSION UNTIL WE SEE HOW OUR PRESENT DRAFT FARES IN JOINT CONSIDERATION.
SULLIVAN

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